



OPASTCO

21 Dupont Circle NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

November 17, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of

**Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors
CC Docket Nos. 97-21, 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On October 5, 2005, the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) sent the attached letter to FCC Chairman Kevin Martin. In the letter, OPASTCO nominated Edwin Eichler to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for incumbent local exchange carriers (other than Bell Operating Companies) with annual reporting revenues of \$40 million or less. Also included was a copy of Mr. Eichler's Curriculum Vitae. Due to an administrative error, we did not file the letter with the Office of the Secretary at the time the letter was sent to the Chairman. We respectfully request that this nomination be included in the record and given due consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stuart Polikoff
Director of Government Relations
OPASTCO



OPASTCO

October 5, 2005

The Honorable Kevin Martin
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) nominates Edwin H. Eichler to the USAC Board of Directors as a representative for incumbent local exchange carriers (other than Bell Operating Companies) with annual operating revenues of \$40 million or less. Please find attached Mr. Eichler's curriculum vitae.

Ed Eichler is OPASTCO's 1997 Chairman and President of Pigeon Telephone Company in Pigeon, Michigan. He has significant access and universal service experience spanning 20 years, including his role as founding chair of the Michigan Exchange Carrier Association.

OPASTCO is a national trade association of more than 500 independently owned and operated telephone companies serving rural areas of the United States. Its members, who include both commercial companies and cooperatives, together serve over three million customers.

OPASTCO strongly recommends that you name Ed Eichler to the USAC Board of Directors. His record of service to the telecommunications industry clearly demonstrates that he has the attributes that will serve the USAC Board well as we further journey into these rapidly changing times.

Regards,

John N. Rose
President

Attachment

JNR/vf

Edwin H. Eichler

7585 W. Pigeon Road
Pigeon, MI 48755
517/453-4391

Curriculum Vitae

Telecommunications Company Operations Experience

President and Chief Executive Officer **1988 to present**
Pigeon Telephone Company

Pigeon Telephone Company (PTC) is an independent telephone company in rural Michigan, with 3,729 access lines. Since joining PTC in 1972, responsibilities have included outside plant, plant manager, director of operations, vice president and president.

President and Chief Executive Officer **1988 to present**
Vice President **1982 to 1988**
Agri-Valley Communications Inc.

Agri-Valley Communications Inc. (AVCI), founded in 1982 as a deregulated subsidiary, was reorganized in 1994 as the parent company for Pigeon Telephone Company, Thumb Cellular Limited Liability Corporation, WSTD-FM radio station, and other business interests.

President and Chief Executive Officer **1988 to present**
Agri- Valley Services

Agri- Valley Services, founded in 1996, provides Internet services through A VCI.NET, and provides other communications services.

Access and Universal Service Experience

Board Member **1997 to present**
Universal Service Administrative Company

First appointed by Reed Hundt in 1997. Member of the High-Cost Low-Income Committee, 1997 to 2003, and Committee Chair 2002-2003; Reappointed by Michael Powell in 2002 for term starting in 2003; Treasurer in 2003; and Audit Committee Chair in 2004 and 2005.

Chairman **1997**
OPASTCO

Responsibilities: leading the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies' (OPASTCO) Board of Directors and Executive Committee to direct the regulatory positions of the association on behalf of small, independent, and primarily rural telephone companies.

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Edwin H. Eichler, page 2

Access and Universal Service Experience, cont'd

Chairman 1986 to 1996

Board Member 1986 to present

Michigan Exchange Carriers Association (MECA)

Responsibilities: steering access regulations for Michigan; negotiating policy with small and large companies; overseeing the separation of MECA, from the Telephone

Association of Michigan, into two distinct organizations.

Uniform System of Accounts, Parts 32 and 69 1985

Working with the United States Telephone Association, with the assistance of a cost consultant, participated in the study to conform Parts 32 and 69 of the Uniform System of Accounts.

Cost Studies for Pigeon Telephone Company 1977 to present

Twenty-five years experience participating in all aspects of the total costing process.

Expert Testimony and Public Speeches 1985 to present

Testified in front of the Federal Communications Commission and Michigan Legislature on various access and universal service issues, and publicly addressed the membership of the Minnesota Telephone Association, Telephone Association of Michigan, OPASTCO, and other various groups.

Telecommunications Associations

Chairman 1997

Board Member 1989 to 1995

Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications

Companies Committee participation has included: Executive, Education, By-laws, Nominating, Industry Relations and Public Relations Committees.

Vice Chairman 1996

Board Member 1996 to 1998

Great Lakes Comnet

Participated on founding board of organization to help Michigan small, rural telephone companies leverage their assets.

Chairman 1988 to 1989

Board Member 1984 to 1998

Telephone Association of Michigan

Committee participation has included: chair of steering committee requested by Michigan Public Service Commission that later became the Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, and the Settlements and Special Services, Executive, 50th Anniversary Convention, Personnel & Policy, and Education Committees.

Edwin Eichler, page 3

United States Telephone Association 1982 to 1992

Telecommunications and Other Organizations

Located in Bay Port, Michigan

Helped form organization, located in Traverse City, Michigan

Pigeon, Michigan

Located in St. Charles, Illinois, with 350 teacher members

Naperville, Illinois

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